

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, IR, AF
SUBJ: FURTHER PRESS REACTION TO AFGHAN COUP

1. LOCAL PRESS CONTINUED BANNER HEADLINES MAY FIRST WITH AFGHAN LEADERSHIP BEING CLEARLY IDENTIFIED--I.E. "KABUL'S COMMUNIST LEADER", "COMMUNIST NAMED AFGHAN PRESIDENT"--AS CONFIRMING "WORST FEARS OF THE WEST". LENGTHY STORIES IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND PERSIAN PRESS TAKEN FROM VARIOUS SERVICES. "JOURNAL DE TEHRAN" MAY FIRST REPRINTS APRIL 29 EDITORIAL FROM PARTY DAILY "RASTAKHIZ" WHICH OPINED THAT DAOUD WAS HIMSELF THE VICTIM OF INSECURITY WHICH HE BROUGHT ABOUT BY HIS COUP D'ETAT AGAINST THE FORMER KING. EDITORIAL ALLEGES THAT EX-KING WAS PROCEEDING TO MAKE STRUCTURAL REFORMS PRIOR TO HIS OVERTHROW BY DAOUD WHO WAS DEPENDENT ON CONSERVATIVE INFLUENTIAL ELEMENTS, INCLUDING THE TRIBES, WHO WERE AN OBSTACLE AGAINST REFORM, PARTICULARLY IN THE AGRARIAN SECTOR. IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO "RASTAKHIZ," DAOUD DID NOT HAVE THE RESPECT AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF THE EX-KING WITH THE AFGHAN PEOPLE.

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2. WELL-CONNECTED JOURNALIST AMIR TAHERI AHD LONG PIECE IN PERSIAN LANGUAGE "KAYHAN" APRIL 30, ENTITLED: "WILL AFGHANISTAN BECOME A SOVIET SATELLITE?" CONSIDERING THE STRONG NATIONALIST FEELINGS IN AFGHANISTAN." REGARDING FUTURE SOVIET ACTION, TAHERI SPECULATES THAT DIRECT INTERFERENCE WOULD LIKELY DRAW STRONG REACTION FROM CHINA AND PAKISTAN. TAHERI NOTES THAT THE U.S.

CONGRESS WITH ITS GREATER VOICE IN FOREIGN POLICY
(THAN IN 1950'S AND 1960'S) LEAVES THE WHITE HOUSE WITH
"LITTLE AUTHORITY TO RESORT TO QUICK ACTION IN SUCH
CASES, WHETHER OPENLY OR SECRETLY, AS TESTED IN
ANGOLA AND THE HORN OF AFRICA." ON THE OTHER HAND,
TAHERI INTERESTINGLY SPECULATES THAT PEOPLE LIVING IN
SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA ARE ETHNICALLY SIMILARY TO
AFGHANIS AND INFILTRATION BY SOVIETS WOULD
"HARDLY SEEM DIFFICULT", PRECLUDING THE NECESSITY FOR
INDIRECT FORCES SUCH AS "CUBAN VOLUNTEERS," A
GROWING CONCERN HERE.

3. COMMENT: FOLLOWING SEVERAL DAYS OF "WAIT AND SEE"
ATTITUDE TOWARD DEVELOPMENTS, THE IRANIAN PRESS TODAY
HAS MINCED NO WORDS IN LABELLING THE NEW REGIME BOTH
COMMUNIST AND PRO-SOVIET.
SULLIVAN

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